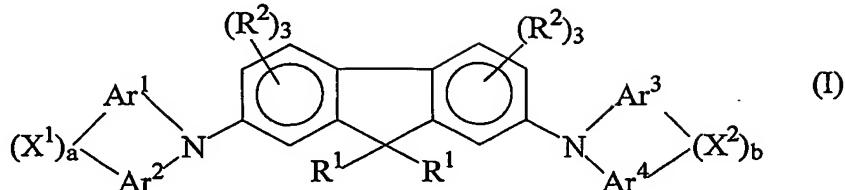


CLAIMS:

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein R¹ is independently in each occurrence i) a C₁₋₄₀ hydrocarbyl group, ii) a C₁₋₄₀ hydrocarbyl group wherein one or more carbons are substituted by one or more heteroatoms selected from S, N, O, P, B or Si atoms, or iii) a halogenated derivative of iii) or iv), with the proviso that in at least one occurrence, R¹ is crosslinkable group;

R² is independently in each occurrence hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyloxy, C₁₋₂₀ thioether, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbylcarbonyloxy, di(C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl)amino, or cyano;

Ar¹, Ar², Ar³ and Ar⁴ are independently in each occurrence C₆₋₂₀ aromatic groups, optionally containing one or more S, N, O, P, B or Si heteroatoms, or a halo-, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl-, di(C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl)amino-, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyloxy-, tri(C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbyl)silyl-, or tri(C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbyl)siloxy- substituted derivative thereof;

a and b independently in each occurrence are 0 or 1; and

X¹ and X² independently in each occurrence are a covalent bond, O, S, SO₂, CH₂, C(R³)₂ or NR³, wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₂ alkyl, C₁₋₂₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₄ aryl, and C₇₋₂₄ aralkyl.

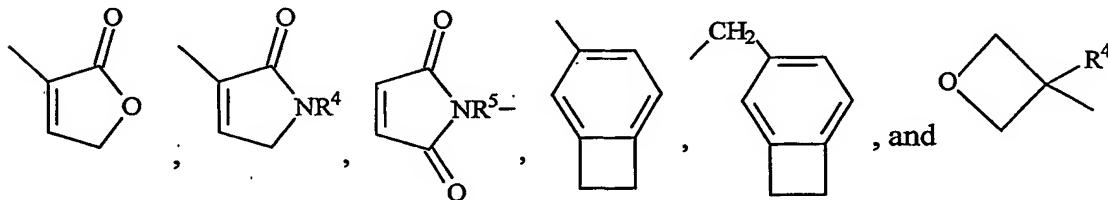
2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ independently each occurrence is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₄₀ hydrocarbyl, C₃₋₄₀ hydrocarbyl containing one or more S, N, O, P, or Si heteroatoms, and the foregoing C₁₋₄₀ hydrocarbyl or C₃₋₄₀ heteroatom containing groups containing a crosslinkable group, with the proviso that in at least one occurrence, R¹ comprises crosslinkable group.

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3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ in at least one occurrence contains a double bond, a triple bond, a precursor capable of in situ formation of a double bond, or a heterocyclic, addition polymerizable group.

4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ in at least one occurrence is selected from the group consisting of:

-(R⁵)_m-CR⁴=CR⁴₂, -(R⁵)_m-C≡CR⁴, -(R⁵)_m-O(R⁵)_m CR⁴=CR⁴₂, -(R⁵)_m-O(R⁵)_m C≡CR⁴,
 -(R⁵)_m-C(O)(R⁵)_m CR⁴=CR⁴₂, -(R⁵)_m-C(O)(R⁵)_m C≡CR⁴, -(R⁵)_m-OC(O)(R⁵)_m CR⁴=CR⁴₂,
 5 -(R⁵)_m-OC(O)(R⁵)_m C≡CR⁴, -(R⁵)_m-COO(R⁵)_m CR⁴=CR⁴₂, -(R⁵)_m-COO(R⁵)_m C≡CR⁴,
 -(R⁵)_m-O(CO)O(R⁵)_m CR⁴=CR⁴₂, -(R⁵)_m-O(CO)O(R⁵)_m C≡CR⁴,



where

R⁴ is hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl, C₁₋₂₀ halohydrocarbyl, or C₁₋₂₀ halocarbyl;

10 R⁵ is C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbylene, C₁₋₂₀ halohydrocarbylene, or C₁₋₂₀ halocarbylene; and.

m is 0 or 1.

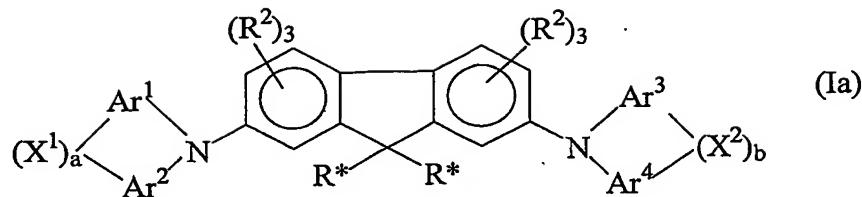
5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of: vinyl, C₁₋₄ alkylacrylate, vinylphenyl, vinylphenyloxy, maleimido, vinylbenzyl,
 15 vinylbenzyloxy, oxetanyl, 2-propynyl, trifluoroethenyl, 1-benzo-3,4-cyclobutane, and methyl-1-benzo-3,4-cyclobutane.

6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R² independently each occurrence is hydrogen, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl, C₁₋₂₀ halohydrocarbyl, C₁₋₂₀ halocarbyl, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyloxy, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbylthio, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyloxy, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyloxycarbonyl, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl-carbonyloxy, or cyano.
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7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein R² each occurrence is hydrogen.

25 8. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar¹, Ar², Ar³ and Ar⁴ are phenyl or phenylene, X¹ and X² are O or S, and a and b are 0 or 1.

9. An oligomer or polymer having one or more repeating groups of the formula:



wherein R* is independently in each occurrence i) a C₁₋₄₀ hydrocarbyl group, iii) a C₁₋₄₀ hydrocarbyl group wherein one or more carbons are substituted by one or more heteroatoms selected from S, N, O, P, B or Si atoms, or iii) a halogenated derivative of i) or ii), with the proviso that in at least one occurrence, R* is a divalent linking group formed by crosslinking of a crosslinkable group selected from i), ii) or iii) through which the repeating groups are joined;

R² is independently in each occurrence hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyloxy, C₁₋₂₀ thioether, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbylcarbonyloxy, di(C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl)amino, or cyano;

Ar¹, Ar², Ar³ and Ar⁴ are independently in each occurrence C₆₋₂₀ aromatic groups, optionally containing one or more S, N, O, P, B or Si heteroatoms, halo-, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl-, di(C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyl)amino-, C₁₋₂₀ hydrocarbyloxy-, tri(C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbyl)silyl-, or tri(C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbyl)siloxy- substituted derivatives thereof, or divalent derivatives of the foregoing;

a and b independently in each occurrence are 0 or 1; and

X¹ and X² independently in each occurrence are a covalent bond, O, S, SO₂, CH₂, C(R³)₂ or NR³, wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₂ alkyl, C₁₋₂₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₄ aryl, and C₇₋₂₄ aralkyl.

10. A composition comprising an oligomer or polymer according to claim 9.

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11. A process for preparing oligomers or polymers comprising heating a composition according to claim 1 under reaction conditions sufficient to form an oligomer or polymer having one or more groups according to claim 9.

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12. A composition according to claim 9 in the form of a film.

13. An electronic device comprising one or more layers of polymer films, at least one of which comprises a film according to claim 12.

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14. An electronic device according to claim 13 which is an electroluminescent device.